

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
**PETER AMBORN ET AL.** )  
)  
Serial No. **09/286,524** )  
)  
Filed: **September 30, 1999** )  
)  
For: **TUBULAR CONNECTION** )

**ASSERTION OF SMALL ENTITY STATUS**

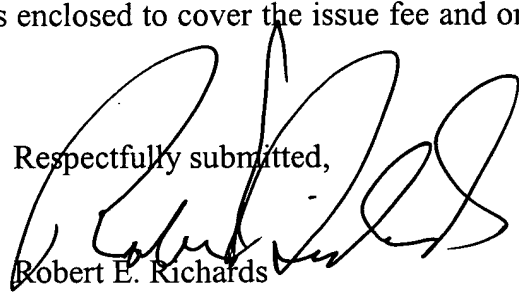
Commissioner for Patents  
Mailstop Issue Fee  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The above-identified United States Patent Application No. 09/286,524 is now entitled to small entity status.

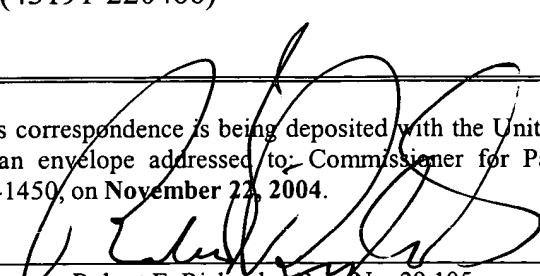
A check in the amount of \$700 is enclosed to cover the issue fee and order for patent copies for the referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert E. Richards  
Reg. No. 29,105

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Our Docket: 16210-0097 (43191-220466)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 22, 2004.

  
Robert E. Richards - Reg. No. 29,105